

Courtesy Copy 7/22/98
Ex. Krynski / J. Gray

REISSUE LITIGATION

In Re Reissue Application and
Reexamination (merged proceeding) of

FOR: PREPARATION AND
TRANSFER SHEET

Patentee: RODERICK THOMPSON

Patent No. 5,472,790

Reissue Serial No.: 09/014,518

Reexamination Control No. 90/004,752

Reissue Filed: January 28, 1998

Reexam Filed: September 17, 1997

Primary Examiner: Krynski

**SECOND SUPPLEMENT TO PETITION
FOR PUBLIC USE PROCEEDINGS**

Petitioner has recently obtained additional evidence in regard to the sale and offer for sale of Counter Maid cutting mats by persons associated with Mrs. Gillett, specifically the Declaration of David Phaller of Richmond Technology as to the lay flat characteristics of the sheets supplied by John Stoneman, Inc. This is in addition to the other evidence previously submitted as to the lay flat characteristics of the Counter Maid sheets, i.e., the admission by the patentee and the Counter Maid samples submitted.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the other evidence submitted by Petitioner in the Protest and Request for Reexamination to consider with the evidence submitted with the public use petitions, establishing nonpatentability under 35USC103. In particular, attention is directed to GB2248177A, which is prior art under 35USC102(b) as to all of the new claims 10-15 submitted by the patentee. All of these claims encompass thickness ranges over 0.030 inches, the upper limit of the original patent application, and thus cannot rely on the filing date of the parent application, but only on

the June 13, 1994 filing date of the second application. These points were set out in the Supplement to the Protest previously filed by Petitioner.

The thickness "means" clauses of claims 10 and 11, if construed as of proper form, would include the ranges recited in the specification, i.e., 0.008 to 0.060 inches in thickness under 35USC112 (6).

GB2248177A was published on April 1, 1992, (previously erroneously stated as January 4, 1994 by petitioner) more than one year prior to June 13, 1994.

As previously pointed out, the Declaration submitted by applicant could not establish prior invention, as the inventor did not invent a cutting sheet thicker than 0.030 inches. Thus the '177 as described in GB 2248177A patent is also prior art under 35USC102(a) as to all of the claims.

The '177A patent clearly teaches the method of use involving cutting and transfer by flexing a polypropylene sheet as thin as 0.0315 inches (see claim 5).

Thus, the prior sales and offer for sale of polypropylene sheets by John Stoneman, Inc. of thicknesses of 0.009, 0.010, and 0.012 inches, and the cutting sheets described in GB2248177A of 0.0315 inches thick for use with the food cutting and transfer method, render all of the pending claims as invalid under 35USC102 or 35USC103.

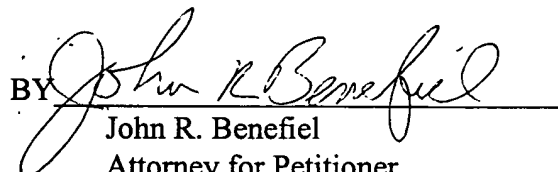
The Examiner's attention is also directed to the Modern Plastic and test data evidence previously submitted concerning the Rockwell hardness and flexural modulus of polypropylene.

Since none of the claims recite an upper size limit, the sale in early December 1991 of larger sized sheets to Schneider Plastics is also anticipating prior art under 35USC102(b). This evidence was presented by petitioner in the original Request for Reexamination, and should be considered here also.

It is noted that new claims 10 and 11 recite "thickness means" which under 35USC112 paragraph 6 is construed as being what is described in the specification, i.e., 0.008 to 0.060 inches thick. These claims thus are invalid over GB2248177A, as well as the Counter Maid prior sales.

Respectfully submitted,

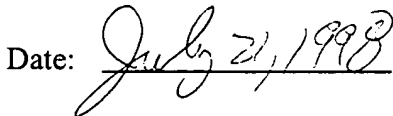
Date: July 21, 1998

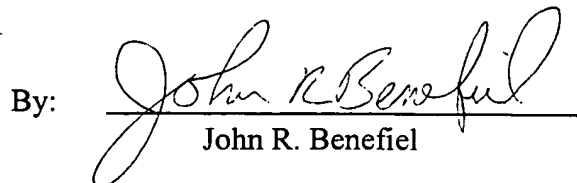
BY 
John R. Benefiel
Attorney for Petitioner
Reg. No. 24,889

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The signature below certifies that a copy of the Second Supplement to Public Use Proceedings; Declaration of David Phaller and all accompanying papers have been served on the patent owner by depositing the documents in an envelope bearing first class postage in an official US. Postal Service depository, on the date set forth below, addressed as follows:

Neil F. Martin
Brown, Martin, Haller & McClain
1660 Union Street
San Diego, CA 92101

Date: 

By: 
John R. Benefiel



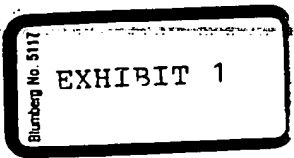
GREENVILLE, OH PHONE: 513/548-7272
Lakeland, FL Phone: 813/665-6550
FOR CORRESPONDENCE REFER TO INVOICE NUMBER
No. 27248 # 27248

CUSTOMER'S 1936 DATE 10/31/91 APPROXIMATE SHIP
ORDER NO. ENTERED 10/31/91 SHIPPING DATE 2/06/91 VIA Common
Carrier

80LDT⁰ Schneider Plastics, Inc.
220 Bingham Dr. #105 CA 92069
San Marcos,
SHIP TO: Creative Plastics
6365 Nancy Ridge Road CA 92121
San Diego,
TERMS: NET 30
F.O.B. Greenville, Oh/Collect
DATE SHIPPED 12/04/91
ROUTED Churchhill
Trucking
GROSS WEIGHT 2,797#

QUANTITY ORDERED	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	QUANTITY SHIPPED	EXTENSION
(APPROX.)	POLYPROPYLENE (9231) EXTRUDED SHEET CLEAR - SMOOTH FINISH			
2,500 lbs.	Extrusion Sheet Size: .010" x 36" x 47"	1.170/lb.	(4520 shes) 2525#	\$ 2954.25
INVOICE TOTAL \$				2954.25

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REISSUE LITIGATION**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Reissue Application and
Reexamination (merged proceeding) of

FOR: PREPARATION AND
TRANSFER SHEET

Patentee: RODERICK THOMPSON

Patent No. 5,472,790

Reissue Serial No.: 09/014,518

Reexamination Control No. 90/004,752

Reissue Filed: January 28, 1998

Reexam Filed: September 17, 1997

Group Art Unit: 1615

DECLARATION OF DAVID PHALLER

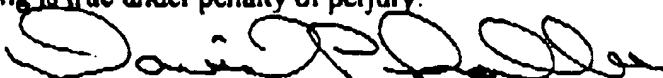
Declarant David Phaller does state that:

1. I am currently employed by Richmond Technology of Redlands, California, and have been employed by that company since at least 1974.
2. I am knowledgeable concerning the production methods used by Richmond in producing extruded plastic sheet over the years of my employment.
3. In the 1970's and later Richmond Technology was a supplier of plastic sheets used for "bacon boards" sold under the trademark "Kleer Kard" by John E. Stoneman, Inc. of Newport Beach, California.
4. In approximately 1981, John Stoneman, Inc. requested delivery of a limited number of special order sheets for a customer of theirs, reportedly for ultimate use as a kitchen cutting sheet.
5. At that time, Richmond Technology was employing polypropylene in extruding Kleer Kard sheets.
6. Richmond Technology extruded the special order sheets for John Stoneman, Inc. using the same material as for Kleer Kard bacon boards.
7. The special order sheets were cut from extruded sheet still hot from the extrusion process and were not cut from stored roll stock.
8. The special order sheets thus had a lay flat characteristic, which was also true of the Kleer Kard bacon boards sold to John Stoneman, Inc.

I declare that the foregoing is true under penalty of perjury.

7-15-98

Date



David Phaller

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and
handling food articles thereon, comprising:
providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat
characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10
inches;
said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;
said plastic material having a thickness between [0.008] 0.010 inches and
[0.060] 0.030 inches;
said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article
spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5
ounces;
placing said sheet on a flat surface;
placing a food article on said sheet;
cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;
flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;
lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
cut pieces; and
funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

6. (Once amended) A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food
preparation, comprising:
providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness [less than] in the
range of 0.010 to 0.030 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of
75,000 to 200,000 psi;
said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said

cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

Please add the following new claims:

12. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food articles thereon, comprising:

providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat

characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10 inches;

said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;

said plastic material having a thickness between 0.030 inches and 0.060 inches;

said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5 ounces;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

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13. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation.

2 comprising:

4 providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of
0.030 to 0.060 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to
200,000 psi;

6 said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

8 placing said sheet on a flat surface;

8 placing a food article on said sheet;

10 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

10 flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

12 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said

12 cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

14. A method for using a flexible sheet for cutting and handling food
articles thereon, comprising:

2 providing a sheet of flexible resilient plastic material having lay-flat

4 characteristics, a width greater than 6 inches and a length greater than 10
inches;

6 said plastic material having a Rockwell hardness between 72 and 90;

8 said plastic material having a thickness between 0.015 inches and 0.040 inches;

8 said sheet having sufficient cantilever beam strength when flexed around the
longitudinal centerline and held proximate a first end to support an article
10 spaced at least 10 inches from said first end and weighing at least 5
ounces;

12 placing said sheet on a flat surface;

14 placing a food article on said sheet;

14 cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

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flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape:

16 lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said
cut pieces; and

18 funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.

15. A method for using a flexible cutting sheet for food preparation,
comprising:

providing a sheet of plastic sheet material having a thickness in the range of
0.015 to 0.040 inches and a flexural modulus in the range of 75,000 to
200,000 psi;

said sheet having a Rockwell hardness in excess of 72;

placing said sheet on a flat surface;

placing a food article on said sheet;

cutting said food article on said sheet using a knife to produce cut pieces;

flexing said sheet to define an arcuate trough shape;

lifting said sheet in said arcuate trough shape off said flat surface to support said

cut pieces; and

funneling said cut pieces off said sheet in said arcuate trough shape.